

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-45 are pending. No claim is canceled, currently amended, or newly presented.

The final Office Action mailed December 13, 2006 rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by *Hammarström et al.* (US 6,044,142), claims 16-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by *Havens* (US 5,881,144), and claims 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, and 13 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Hammarström et al.* (US 6,044,142) in view of *Pullen et al.* (US 6,198,813).

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 7 and 14 are allowable if recast in independent form.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 15 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Independent claims 1, 8, and 15 recite (emphasis added), “creating a **customer application file using a customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks** in a server of said telecommunications network, wherein **a set of customer specific data is defined for use as inputs** into said set of service-independent building blocks.”

In an attempt to meet these claim limitations, at page 3 of the Final Rejection, the Examiner relies on various portions of *Hammarström et al.*

The creation of a customer application file using a customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks in a server is said to be taught at col. 2, lines 10-14, with the “service management system” (SMS) alleged to perform this function. Applicants respectfully disagree. The cited portion of *Hammarström et al.* provides that

Each new service is defined, specified, developed, and tested in a special service creation environment linked to a service management

system (SMS) and then simply downloaded to the service control point.

While it is not necessarily contested that each new service may be composed of “reusable components called service independent building blocks (SIBs)” (col. 1, line 66–col. 2, line 1), there is nothing in the portion of the reference cited by the Examiner about the SMS “creating a customer application file using a customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks in a server.” The “service creation environment” noted in *Hammarström et al.* is not even necessarily on, or in, a server, as required by the claims.

The Examiner next cites col. 3, line 47–col. 4, line 10, of *Hammarström et al.* for the teaching of “creating a customer application file,” explaining that “a user creates a customer specific application using the service-independent building blocks based on information provided by the customer.” Again, Applicants respectfully disagree. *Hammarström et al.* provides for a specific application by using one or more service independent blocks to implement a command, but it is an “operator-initiated command” (see col. 3, line 63), and not a “customer-specified sequence,” as required by the instant claims. *Hammarström et al.* makes this very clear as it is the intention of this reference “to provide cooperation between live operators and automated IN-based services (col. 3, lines 11-12).

The Examiner asserts, at page 9 of the Final Rejection, that

...it is clear that the operator is creating a customer specific sequence of SIBBs since the operator is connecting them **for the caller (customer)**. The operator will obtain the customers [sic, customer's] needs (customer specific data) and will use that information to determine the inputs for the service-independent building blocks.

On pages 9-10 of the Final Rejection, the Examiner acknowledges that the operator, and not the actual customer, physically creates the service, but the Examiner asserts that because:

the inputs are defined by the customer's needs then Hammarström meets

the claimed limitations of “creating a customer application file using a customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks in a server of said telecommunications network, wherein a set of customer specific data is defined for use as inputs input said set of service-independent building blocks.”

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s explanation of how *Hammarström et al.* is being read on the claims, but Applicants respectfully disagree that an operator assisted system as in *Hammarström et al.*, wherein the operator, and not the customer, actually causes the execution of one or more service independent building blocks via an operator-initiated command, can be considered a disclosure of a “customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks,” as claimed. However, assuming, *arguendo*, that the operator assistance in *Hammarström et al.* in sequencing the service-independent building blocks in accordance with a customer’s needs *may* be considered “a customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks,” the subject matter of the instant claims is still not anticipated by *Hammarström et al.* This is so because, by the terms of the claims, “a customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks” is required to be used in “creating a customer application file” and there is no such “customer application file” in *Hammarström et al.*, let alone a “customer application file” created by “using a customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks in a server..., wherein a set of customer specific data is defined for use as inputs into said set of service-independent building blocks.” The operator in *Hammarström et al.* may combine service logic and service data in a particular service-independent building block (SIBB) sequence, but it is unreasonable to characterize this as being either an “input” or “customer-specific,” as claimed.

Even if one were to assume, as accurate, which Applicants do not, the Examiner’s assessment that the operator in *Hammarström et al.* is creating a customer specific sequence of

SIBBs since the operator is connecting them for the customer and the operator obtains the customer's needs and uses that information to determine the inputs for the service-independent building blocks (page 9 of the Final Rejection), there is still no creation of "a customer application file," as claimed, in *Hammarström et al.* There is no such "file" created in *Hammarström et al.* because the operator in *Hammarström et al.* merely sets a sequence of operations into motion through an operator-initiated command, but there is no indication in *Hammarström et al.* that any "customer application file" is being created and there is certainly no indication of any such file being created by "using a customer-specified sequence of said service-independent building blocks." Accordingly, *Hammarström et al.* cannot be said to anticipate claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, and 15.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, AND 13 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Since *Pullen et al.* was cited by the Examiner merely as a teaching of defining rules under which service-independent building blocks operate and of defining inputs and outputs for each set of service-independent building blocks, and *Pullen et al.* does not provide for the deficiencies of *Hammarström et al.* noted *supra*, no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established by the Examiner and a withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In addition, these dependent claims are separately patentable on their merits. For example, *Pullen et al.* fails to teach storing of a set of data in an advanced network database, let alone storing a set of "customer specific data" as specified in claim 5; and *Pullen et al.* fails to teach assigning an identification number associated with a customer specific data file, as specified in claims 6 and 13.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 16-45 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Independent claims 16, 21, 27, 32, 38, and 42 recite either a method or system for supporting an “interactive voice response (IVR) service.” On its face, the reference to *Havens* is not an anticipatory reference because *Haven* is concerned with Intelligent Networks (IN), and IN subscriptions and services, rather than IVR services. An intelligent network (IN) is a service-independent telecommunications network. That is, intelligence is placed in computer nodes that are distributed throughout the network, providing the network operator with the means to develop and control services more efficiently. In contrast, IVR, is a computerized system that allows a person, typically a telephone caller, to select options from a voice menu and otherwise interact with the computer phone system. While there may be some similarities and overlapping of the types of functions performed by these two types of systems, they are not necessarily identical and the examiner has not shown that *Haven* discloses an IVR system, as specified in the claims.

Moreover, each of independent claims 16, 21, 27, 32, 38, and 42 specifically recites “an application identifier” or “an identifier.” In claims 16 and 21, a message is received and that message is associated with a call invoking the IVR service, wherein the message specifies an **application identifier** corresponding to a **customer application file providing a call plan**. The customer application file is then retrieved **based on the application identifier**. Similarly, claims 27 and 32 recite, receiving “a request for a **customer application file that specifies a call plan**, the request including an **application identifier** corresponding to the customer application

file.” Claims 38 and 42 recite, generating **“a customer application file that specifies a call plan”** and assigning **“an identifier to the generated customer application file.”**

Applicants respectfully contend that *Havens* simply does not disclose these claimed features. While the Examiner cites col. 1, lines 39-50, col. 2, lines 10-29, col. 3, lines 44-59, and col. 4, line 50-col. 5, line 15, it is Applicants’ position that the Examiner has misinterpreted these portions of *Haven*. The Examiner states that in *Havens*, “a sequence of SSLs and SIBs are based upon data associated with a call connection or subscriber data which is associated with an IN subscriber. The IN subscriber represents the customer information. The subscription data reads on a customer application file since it relates to a specific IN subscriber” (page 10 of the Final Rejection). However, *Havens* uses the subscription data associated with a particular subscriber to ascertain the identities of the related service script logics (SSLs) of a given IN service. The subscription data may not reasonably be read on the claimed “customer application file” because the claimed “customer application file” must specify a call plan and there must be an “application identifier” that corresponds to the customer application file. *Havens*’ subscription data does not specify a call plan. In fact, *Havens*’ system determines a particular call plan only through simulation (see col. 4, line 62 – col. 5, line 2). Applicants can find nothing in *Havens* suggesting that an application file specifies a call plan or that an application identifier corresponds to a customer application file, as claimed.

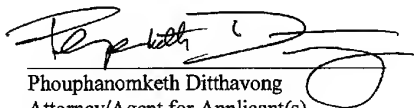
Thus, it is clear that *Havens* fails to anticipate independent claims 16, 21, 27, 32, 38, and 42 as each and every element of the claims, as set forth in the claim, is not taught by the reference. Accordingly, these independent claims along with claims 17-20, 22-26, 28-31, 33-37, 39-41, and 43-45, depending correspondingly therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 519-9952 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date


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